

Mock condemns Israeli actions

CAIRO (AP) — Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, on his arrival Saturday for an official visit, condemned Israel's violent actions against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Speaking to reporters at Cairo international airport, Mr. Mock also said his country supports the idea of an international conference sponsored by the United Nations to bring peace to the Middle East. "We condemn the violent actions of Israel," Mr. Mock said. "They are not the way to resolve the (Arab-Israeli) conflict." He spoke in German, translated to Arabic. "We support the convening of an international conference under U.N. auspices," he said. In an interview conducted by the state-owned Middle East News Agency before his arrival, Mr. Mock offered the Austrian capital Vienna as the venue for such a conference. He said topics of his talks with senior Egyptian officials will include bilateral relations, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war.

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Israel tightens clampdown on W. Bank and Gaza Strip after detaining thousands

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israeli army maintained a tight guard on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Saturday after admitting on Friday that more than 1,000 Palestinians were detained in a move to contain the two weeks of violent anti-occupation demonstrations that rocked the occupied territories.

Heavy rains lashed the area and no serious incidents were reported on Friday and Saturday.

The subsiding of protests appeared to be the result of both rainy weather and a campaign of massive arrests.

The Palestine Press Service reported 100 more Arabs had been detained on top of the 1,858 arrested since the start of unrest Dec. 8. The army said 1,000 had been detained and more were expected.

Meanwhile, about 2,000 members of the Israeli anti-war group Peace Now demonstrated in Jerusalem, calling for the government to enact a peace programme rather than use punitive measures against Palestinians.

In Bethlehem, reporters saw small groups of pilgrims going into the Church of Nativity, built

(Continued on page 3)



CHRISTMAS UNDER ARMY GUARD: Israeli soldiers keep watch near a Christmas tree in Bethlehem, which marked its annual Christmas ceremonies with the record-low number of people in the 20 years of occupation.

Palestinian group says casualties inflicted on Israelis in commando raid

RIYADH (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharar arrived in Riyadh on Saturday, just before leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) opened their eighth summit meeting, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The agency gave no details about his previously unannounced visit, but diplomatic sources believed it was connected with the efforts of the GCC to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Sharaa in Riyadh

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Velayati in Libya

BEIRUT (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Libya on Saturday for talks with officials on relations between the two countries, the official Libyan News Agency, JANA reported. The agency quoted Mr. Velayati as saying that his three-day visit was "in the framework of consultations with the brothers in Libya about issues of mutual interest."

Explosion kills Greek army expert

ATHENS (AP) — An army bomb-disposal expert was killed and four servicemen injured Saturday in the second explosion in two days at an ammunition depot near Athens, the Defence Ministry said. A spokesman said Evangelos Giorgiannis, 53, died from injuries incurred by shrapnel from an artillery shell that exploded.

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Fahd opens GCC summit with warning to Tehran

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd on Saturday cautioned Iran against prolonging its war with Iraq, warning that the seven-year-old conflict might be broadened to involve other powers.

The king said Iran's conditions for ending the war "are unreasonable and unacceptable." He was alluding to Iran's demands that the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein be removed before the conflict can be ended. The Iranians also have asked for enormous sums in war reparations.

"Conditions come after the war ends," the king said. He praised Iraq for seeking peace. Iraq has said it will accept U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 if Iran does.

King Fahd referred to both Iran and Iraq as "sister countries, neighbouring Islamic states." He stressed that their war will one

day inevitably come to an end. "But why wait till the war annihilates everything? ... it would make better sense to end it without delay, rather than wait for it to engulf all in its flames."

The king said Iran's conditions for their rights."

"The great upheaval has been long overdue, it came after long patience, and could well be the forerunner of other upheavals," he said. "I salute the heroes and wish them success."

In his comments on the Gulf war, King Fahd warned that countries of the region might seek outside help if the war continued to escalate.

"Every country could find itself obliged to defend itself and get help from other countries and it would have the right to do so," he said.

Kuwait has already sought U.S., British and Soviet naval protection for its oil exports through the Gulf by chartering or flagging tankers.

Momentum toward implementing 598 through an arms embargo on Iran increased in the past week as the Soviet Union

(Continued on page 3)

Iran-hit ships limp to port after U.S.-British rescue

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A flame-blackened South Korean cargo ship limped into port on Saturday to repair damage caused by one of two Iranian attacks on Christmas day in a raging tanker war in the Gulf, shipping sources said.

Helicopters from the British frigate Scylla and the American guided missile frigate USS Elrod flew to the rescue of the lumber-carrying Hyundai 7 Friday afternoon following an Iranian gunboat attack that left it in flames, some 30 kilometres northeast of Sharjah.

The commandos were armed with three Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifles, hand grenades and other small arms, said the spokesman. A military official said on Israel Radio the commandos were wearing Israeli army uniforms under civilian clothes. He said they carried bags containing heavy spikes.

Bombs rock Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Three nearly simultaneous car bomb explosions rocked downtown Islamabad on Saturday, police and witnesses said.

Hospital sources said four people were in critical condition. Eleven cars were destroyed, including the three carrying the bombs, and dozens of shops and businesses in a four-block area were damaged, police said.

The bombs went off at around 6:45 p.m. (1345 GMT) at three locations within a five-kilometre radius. The explosions — which stokekeeper Rafi Ahmad said exploded "within an interval of a few seconds" — blew off shop shutters and shattered windows.

One explosion at the Shalimar-8 Markaz shopping district left a 30-centimetre crater and ignited a fire that destroyed six cars.

The Pakistan government has blamed the Afghan secret service for a spate of bombings that have killed nearly 300 people this year.

Jordan reaffirms determination to foil any Israeli plan to expel Palestinians

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will do all it can to foil any Israeli attempt to deport Palestinians from the occupied territories to the East Bank, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin said Saturday.

Referring to recent statements made by the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Dudin said Israel "is not ruling out expulsion from its list of violent oppressive measures" against the Palestinian population under its occupation rule.

"We may not be able to do much about the rest of the Israeli oppressive measures," Mr. Dudin said. "But when it comes to evicting people and throwing them out (to the East Bank), we will have to do our best to thwart these attempts."

Mr. Dudin's remarks to the

Fadlallah links hostages with Israeli-held prisoners

BEIRUT (R) — A leading Shi'ite Muslim clergyman has told the West that a release of foreign hostages in Lebanon is linked to the fate of prisoners held by Israel and its allies.

The declaration from Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah was apparently in response to a wave of Christmas appeals for an end to the ordeal of 24 foreigners missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon.

The spiritual guide of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) movement said "the whole world" wanted the foreigners free but not Palestinians jailed in Israel and Lebanon held by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Lebanon.

"We call on all captors to release the innocent hostages," Sheikh Fadlallah told Friday prayers in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Hezbollah is widely believed to hold some of the foreigners kidnapped in Beirut.

"We want the world to support those arrested under oppression in occupied Palestine and Al Kham," Sheikh Fadlallah said.

The SLA holds about 300 prisoners near the Lebanese village of Al Kham.

Sources in Israel said on Friday that more than 1,000 Palestinians were still in Israeli custody after two weeks of protests in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"When you raise one united voice we will raise our voice with you and then the issue will be on the way towards a solution," Sheikh Fadlallah said, apparently addressing Western nations.

"But when you follow the language of discrimination the issue will continue to move within political complexities."

"We want to tell all those who hold hostages to release the people they detained because this is not justified," he said, adding that everyone should know all the "kidnapped" were equal.

His remarks followed pleas for the release of the hostages in Lebanon from the wives of French and American captives, British Ambassador John Gray and Archibishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie.

American hostage Terry Anderson, 40, appeared in a video tape on Thursday, urging his government to work harder for the release of abducted Americans and criticising Washington for its support of Israel.

Washington said Mr. Anderson was speaking under duress.

Jordan Times echoed a statement issued by a spokesman for the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. In the statement, issued on Thursday and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the spokesman rejected Israeli threats against the Palestinians of "oppressive measures including deportation."

The Jordanian government, while asserting the rights of all citizens in the occupied territories in holding to their lands, decides it will appropriate measures to foil any act of deportation to the eastern part of the Kingdom from the occupation authorities," the spokesman said.

The Israeli defence minister was quoted Friday as denying that any decision has yet been made on deportations, but that "we have the legal option of doing so and there is no question that this is a means that we could use."

Treaty not fulfilled, Ghali reminds Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told listeners to Israeli army radio on Saturday that Israel had failed to uphold its Camp David treaty with Egypt.

"How can this not have an effect on the relations between Egypt and Israel? Our goal is to achieve a comprehensive, lasting peace... this was the real purpose of the treaty which was concluded between Egypt and Israel."

Asked whether he could understand Israel's need to maintain "order" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Dr. Ghali said Israel's actions defied Geneva Convention regulations on occupied areas.

"We don't believe you can calm the situation by using bullets against children... you are bound by the Geneva Convention," he said.

Since the protests erupted, Egypt has repeatedly condemned Israel for the deterioration in the occupied territories and for damage caused to Middle East peace efforts.

Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson was summoned to the Cairo Foreign Ministry to hear Egyptian protests against Israel's use of force in trying to quell the protests.

Moscow angry over U.S. chemical arms

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow angrily denounced Washington on Saturday for starting production of binary chemical weapons and hinted that it might be forced to follow suit.

A statement from the Soviet Foreign Ministry called the start of production on Dec. 16 an unprovoked military step giving a new twist to the arms race just as 41-nation Geneva talks were progressing towards a chemical weapons ban.

Binary weapons are a new generation of arms in which toxic effect comes only when two chemicals in a warhead are mixed. The Geneva talks moved closer to a global ban on chemical weapons this year when Moscow dropped objections to on-site inspection as a means of verifying compliance with an accord.

Soviet and American experts have since visited sites in each other's countries to see how chemical weapons would be destroyed in the event of an agreement.

Iran executes 'saboteur'

NICOSIA (AP) — A saboteur was publicly executed Saturday in the same square in downtown Tehran where he planted a car bomb that killed 20 people in 1986, Iranian Television said. He was apparently one of four men arrested three months after the Aug. 19, 1986, bombing in the central square.

UAE urges buffer force to separate Gulf enemies

King Fahd hopes for peaceful end-to-war

RIYADH (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) president, in remarks published on Saturday, called for an independent force to separate Iran and Iraq militarily.

Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan, also told Saudi newspapers that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders, gathering for a summit in Riyadh, should send envoys to Iran to try to end the seven-year-old war.

"Talks between Gulf countries and Iran are essential," he said. Sheikh Zaid repeated a call he made at last month's Amman Arab Summit that three Arab leaders be delegated to travel to Tehran and Baghdad to mediate in the war.

The conflict increasingly affects the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — and most of the

past seven GCC summits have sent envoys to Tehran, but without success.

Sheikh Zaid said that if Arab envoys failed again, the war should be brought before the entire Islamic World and suggested independent military force.

"Why aren't forces placed between the two sides to return each one to its land and stop it at its limit? This is the proper solution," he said.

Sheikh Zaid criticised the presence of more than 80 foreign warships in the Gulf to protect their national flag ships from Iraqi and Iranian attacks.

"The foreign presence is not

for the sake of the Arabs, or for the sake of the world, but for themselves," he said.

In a separate interview, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia told Al Jazeera newspaper he still hoped for a peaceful end to the war.

"Despite the gloomy atmosphere which prevails in the region, as a Muslim I am still hopeful that the clouds will disperse and reason and logic will eventually prevail in the interest of peace," he said.

He said talks were continuing on a proposed GCC security pact which has remained unsigned for five years over Kuwait's objections to a clause on cross-border pursuit of suspects.

"There is a legal side which must still be completed, but on the practical side, as is known, cooperation and consultation are taking their path among the GCC states," the king said.

Sudan said last month the headquarters should be transferred to a country which respected the charter of the pan-African body.

Mr. Sanadah dismissed Ethiopian charges that Sudan supported separatist rebels in Ethiopia. "There is no place in Sudan where rebels hostile to Ethiopia are being trained," he said. "If they have any evidence or proof to the contrary, they should come up with it."

He said Khartoum was still prepared to take part in a joint committee on Sudanese/Ethiopian relations which the leaders of the two countries agreed earlier this month to set up.

Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi on Friday held out an olive branch to rebels fighting his government since 1983, and said he wanted good relations with neighbouring Marxist Ethiopia.

Mr. Mahdi, in a Christmas message on state Radio Omdurman, said his government would continue to bolster the armed forces. "But we renew our determination to pursue all the peaceful paths with similar enthusiasm and through all legitimate means."

"We call on those who have taken up arms to realise that Sudan is the leader of the continent with regard to basic and human rights and to abandon violence which will not pay."

He said Sudan had reciprocated and fixed a date and a venue for the meeting, but did not give details.

"We look forward to a serious and a decisive meeting that will achieve a just peace and good neighbourliness," Mr. Mahdi said.

Mr. Mahdi and Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam agreed to set up the joint committee when they met earlier this month in Uganda.

The SPLA, based in the mainly anarchist and Christian south, has been fighting a guerrilla war since 1983, saying it wants justice for the country's religious and ethnic minorities.

Mr. Sanadah said Sudan was still considering whether to press its demand for the headquarters of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to be moved from Addis Ababa.

In protest against Ethiopia's alleged support for the SPLA,

Sudanese Foreign Minister Maamoun Sanadah rejected on Saturday a charge by Addis Ababa that Sudanese troops killed eight civilians in an Ethiopian border town.

He told a news conference that Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh had called in Sudan's ambassador to make the accusation and protest at the incident.

"The Sudanese ambassador denied the charge and I, on my part, inquired of the armed forces which totally denied responsibility," he said. "If this really happened, I suspect that (Sudan People's Liberation Army) SPLA rebels were the culprits."

Mr. Sanadah quoted the Ethiopians as saying the killings took place in the town of Kurmuk which lies opposite a Sudanese border town of the same name. He did not say when they were alleged to have happened.

Sudanese troops retook Kurmuk, 600 kilometres south east of Khartoum, on Tuesday, nearly seven weeks after it was captured by SPLA rebels in their first major victory outside south Sudan.

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Largest operating tanker enters Gulf

By Ed Blanche
Associated Press

DUBAI (R) — The largest tanker currently sailing, the 564,739-tonne Bermuda-registered Esso Atlantic, entered the Gulf on Saturday as part of a British convoy.

Reporters in a helicopter said an Iranian frigate a mile away questioned the ships by maritime radio as they sailed past Iran's Abu Musa Island in the southern Gulf at midday.

They saw three other tankers in the convoy — the British Fort Toronto, 31,743 tonnes, the Bahamas-registered Esso Hawaii, 278,801 tonnes, and the British Edmonton, 31,275 tonnes.

The British frigate Scylla, which on Friday helped the U.S. Navy to lift crew off a blazing South Korean tanker after an Iranian attack, threaded in and out of the group. The U.S. frigate Ford was also patrolling the area.

The French frigate Duplex escorted a convoy of four laden tankers out of the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz as an Iranian frigate stood guard, asking passing vessels their name, destination and last port of call.

The Esso Atlantic, which had been laid up in Norway for four years due to lack of demand, will load oil at the Saudi port of Ras Tanura, where it is due to arrive on Sunday.

Government troops on Tuesday retook the town and said they killed 1,000 rebels for the loss of 19 of their own dead.

The government has said the rebels' capture of Kurmuk was only made possible through direct Ethiopian military support. Addis Ababa denies the charge.

Mr. Mahdi, who returned on Friday from an official visit to China, said Ethiopia has named its delegation to a proposed meeting of a joint committee to consider relations, which he described as tense.

He said Sudan had reciprocated and fixed a date and a venue for the meeting, but did not give details.

"We look forward to a serious and a decisive meeting that will achieve a just peace and good neighbourliness," Mr. Mahdi said.

Mr. Mahdi and Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam agreed to set up the joint committee when they met earlier this month in Uganda.

He said that Belgian captive Fernand Houtekins, 40, was the father.

It was signed by Walid Khaled.

The official who announced in a news conference on Nov. 8 that seaborne Abu Nidal commandos had captured five Belgians, a Frenchwoman and two small girls.

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Committees begin studies to aid families of martyrs

AMMAN (Petra) — In implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives to give monthly salaries to families of martyrs of the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories, and upon instructions from Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, special committees from the ministry have started studying conditions of the families of the martyrs, who were killed during the current uprising.

Salaries will be delivered to the families of martyrs directly through directors of Awqaf departments in the occupied territories. The ministry's committees said that they are ready to receive contributions that citizens might wish to donate to their brethren in the occupied territories to enable them to hold in the face of the Israeli occupation forces and to cling to their land.

DLDNA launches documentation week

AMMAN (Petra) — Several activities, displays and seminars highlighting the educational and historical role of national documentations are part of a week-long celebration which was launched throughout the Kingdom on Saturday by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA). Jordan's seven-day celebration which aim at shedding more light on the importance of documentations for the public, comes in line with a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assem-

by on the need to hold week-long activities throughout the world. Jordan has been holding such events since 1979.

On the occasion, an exhibition of photographs and documents depicting all aspects related to the Great Arab Revolt will be mounted. The exhibition includes a special ward on the activities of Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, the great grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein and leader of the Great Arab Revolt. Other displays in this exhibition, to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Jordan reaffirms determination to foil any Israeli

(Continued from page 1)

attitude of both the Israeli military and officials." He said that the two dominant parties in the Israeli coalition government — Likud and Labour — were supporting such measures. He noted that the Israeli defence minister was from the Labour Party.

Mr. Dudin said that rather than escalating its harsh practices against the civilian population in the occupied territories, Israel "should do some serious thinking about withdrawal" from the occupied lands. "There should be a change in attitude... towards accepting the principle of land for peace."

He said that the Palestinians under Israeli occupation "will al-

ways be able, one way or the other, to express their frustration and anger" in the face of Israel's denial of their basic human rights.

His Majesty King Hussein has issued a directive to concerned authorities to allocate monthly salaries to the families of Palestinian martyrs who fell to Israeli bullets during the uprising in the occupied territories.

In Friday's interview with the Jerusalem Post, the Israeli defence minister rejected criticism that has been levelled against him in the U.S. for reportedly disregarding American advice not to institute a "bargain" policy.

"I express regret over the loss of life, but our warnings went

Israel tightens clampdown after mass detentions

(Continued from page 1)

about their sons.

A commercial strike continued in Nablus and the Balata camp, which has been a focus of violent demonstrations, the agency said.

The army said a curfew was imposed on the Askar refugee camp, also near Nablus, after demonstrators stormed a police station Friday night.

In Gaza City, women met in an elementary school in the Jahaliya refugee camp and called for the release of prisoners and an end to a curfew that was keeping the 60,000 residents inside the confines of the shantytown, the Palestine Press Agency said.

The agency said the women appealed for international help to ensure the safety of prisoners. They said prisoners were being beaten and made to live in tents in cold and rainy weather.

Felicia Langer, an Israeli lawyer who represents Palestinian prisoners, said she had been unable to locate three of her clients for eight days until the military's legal adviser in the West Bank told her two were in Faraa and one in Dahraya.

"I was so furious," she told AP. "I said we already look like South Africa, now we are turning into an Argentina where people cannot be found."

An Arab reporter said a commercial strike had ended in Gaza City, where 150,000 people live.

Residents of several refugee camps said soldiers had made arrests of suspected nationalist activists during the night. Some also complained that soldiers threw stones on rooftops, smashing solar water heater panels.

Israel Radio said more than

1,000 Palestinians have been arrested since violence flared there two weeks ago.

The figures were disputed by the Palestine Press Service which said the number of those held was closer to 2,500.

Many Palestinians were jailed for between one and twelve months and hundreds of others will be tried soon, the radio quoted an Israeli official as saying.

A new detention camp is being built near Hebron and a second expanded in the Gaza Strip to house the detainees.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in an interview published Friday, urged both Israel and the Arabs to show restraint and avoid escalating the casualty toll in the occupied territories.

She said an Arab-Israeli peace conference under international auspices is even more important as a result of the violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I hope these disturbances will heighten the awareness... that it is vital to have peace talks, and it is vital not to use excessive force in such circumstances," she was quoted as saying in the interview with the Jewish Chronicle, the weekly newspaper of Britain's Jewish community.

"Whenever one has a grievance, and the Palestinians have a grievance, you must get negotiations going. We feel very strongly that there is a chance within the framework of an international conference to get bilateral talks between Jordan and Palestinians who reject the use of force together with the Israelis," she was quoted as saying.

"We have struggled to get this

King Fahd opens GCC summit with warning to Tehran

(Continued from page 1)

dropped its opposition to Security Council discussion of the move.

King Fahd said there was still hope of a peaceful settlement despite the failure of past mediation efforts. "All we hope is that Iran will listen to the voice of reason, logic and wisdom," he said.

Tehran condemned on Friday a U.N. Security Council statement on the Iran-Iraq war, saying it was the wrong way to end the seven-year-old conflict.

The U.N. statement said the council was determined to consid-

er further steps to ensure compliance with Resolution 598. But it stopped short of reporting an agreement by all 15 members to impose sanctions against Iran. The United States and some other members have been pressing for an arms embargo.

Iran's chief war spokesman Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Friday the statement included both threats and promises.

"As we have declared repeatedly in the past, if they wish to maintain the security of the Gulf and in the region and to end the war, this is not the proper way to achieve it," he said.

Heavy rains to continue

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heavy rainfall, cold and cloudy weather and a possible slight snowfall on hilly areas are the main weather characteristics predicted to prevail throughout country today by the Department of Meteorology.

The heavy rains which fell throughout Jordan over the past five days herald a good agriculture season, according to agrometeorologists.

The committees will work on a 24-hour basis. They have the necessary equipment needed to open roads, and clear manholes and as well as water pumps.

In a related development, the Mafraq Governorate's department for public works and telecommunications and the con-

cerned authorities involved in power supply have formed joint committees to handle emergencies which might result from the rain and weather conditions.

The Municipality of Mafraq

also formed three emergency task

committees as a precaution to

wards any possible weather-re-

lated mishaps.

The committees will work on a

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Saturday's

Al Ra'i: High time for Arab action

JORDAN firmly and forcefully declared its intention to foil all attempts by the Israeli authorities to deport Arab citizens from the occupied territories to the East Bank. At the same time, King Hussein directed the concerned authorities in the Kingdom to allocate monthly salaries for the families of the martyrs who fell in defence of their soil and in confrontation with the occupation authorities. This move clearly translates Jordan's national commitments and reflects its determination to extend all possible help to the Arab people in the occupied territories.

Terrorism by Israel practised on the Arab people has reached unparalleled proportions, calling for immediate pan-Arab action for deterring the occupation authorities and aborting their evil ambitions and plans. Thousands of Arab people are being detained every day in the wake of the uprising against repression and the deaths of innocent people rising in the face of their tormentors seeking freedom. Needless to say, the Israeli terrorists are clearly determined to pursue their course of action against the Arab citizens and against the will of the international community. In the wake of the recent U.N. Security Council's statement expressing regret over Israel's actions in the occupied lands, Israeli leaders announced their total rejection of the resolution and also the U.S. statements of regret over Israel's actions. In addition, these leaders announced that they were more determined than ever to pursue their policy of repression against the steadfast Arab people. In the light of this situation, and in view of Israel's continued criminal actions against our people, the Arab countries should take the initiative and translate their feelings into real action, extending support for their brothers in the occupied territory.

Al Dustour: Optimistic signs

THE U.N. Security Council's statement on the Gulf war represents a constructive step in the right direction because it shows that the international community is now willing to impose sanctions on the Iranians for their rejection of Resolution 598. More than five months have passed since the resolution was adopted by the council during which many mediation efforts were made to make Iran change its stand and accept the will of the world community but nothing has happened so far to persuade the aggressors to stop their war on the Arab Nation.

All this time the international community's efforts were foiled by Iran's intransigence and its stubbornness. The Iranians were encouraged to take this stand by an announcement on the part of Security Council members who were in the view of giving Tehran further chances and more time to be convinced of the resolution and end the conflict. But the Iranians were playing for time and stalling, without any intention of accepting the resolution or ending their war on the Arab Nation.

The council's recent statement has given us hope that meaningful action will be taken towards imposing sanctions on Iran and that the council members will take all possible measures designed to halt the war. This is the only choice left for the council to take now that all the mediation efforts and the attempts to seek an end to the conflict have failed. We are hopeful and confident that the council will now opt for real and practical measures to force Iran to respond to the call for peace and implement Security Council Resolution 598 to achieve that end.

Sawt Al Shaab: An urgent call

U.N. Security Council Resolution 605 issued on Dec. 22 dealing with the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reaffirms the need for all nations to wake up and rise in the face of Israel and stop its atrocities against the innocent Arab people. The resolution, which condemned Israel's actions and terrorist practices against the freedom-seekers and those who struggled to safeguard their rights and homeland, meant that the international community can no longer remain silent. Israel, which has turned its back to all U.N. Security Council resolutions and scoffed at the decisions and the will of the international community, will no doubt find itself in total isolation from the rest of the international community which cannot condone repressive measures against innocent civilians. Even the United States, Israel's ally, has displayed dismay at Israel's actions and its violation of human rights in the occupied territories.

In view of this situation, two things ought to be done: First the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied Palestinian land should be corroborated by all means so that Israel's ambitions can be foiled. Second: Arab countries should show more solidarity and take collective action that would deter the Israelis from further atrocities against the Palestinian people. Resolution 605, which deplored Israel's actions and restated the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, represent an urgent call for all nations to speed up the convening of an international conference that would find a lasting solution for the Palestine problem.

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Objective stands

HIS Majesty King Hussein's recent visit to the Soviet Union and its constructive results, which were reflected in the identical views on many issues, including the Palestine question and the Iran-Iraq war is the natural outcome of the objective Jordanian stand. The results are also the natural and logical outcome of the firm Soviet stand, which has always been supportive of the Arab causes.

The new scopes which the visit opened will certainly be to the benefit of both countries and will have their unique and positive effects not only on Jordanian-Soviet relations but also on Soviet-Arab relations.

The positive results of the King's visit to Moscow and the solid and courageous resistance of our people in the occupied territories have special significance since they are coupled with the beginning of a new era of Arab rapprochement which followed the extraordinary Amman-Arab summit.

Jordan's support of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories as voiced by His Majesty the King and stressed by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai are meaningful assurances since the uprising stresses anew that Israel will not be able to occupy land and achieve peace at the same time. The uprising manifests our kinsmen's determination to pursue their heroic struggle to liberate the land and to preserve their Arab identity.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Let us deregulate interest rates

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

ARE interest rates in Jordan high or low? Should they be maintained, raised, lowered or floated?

That was the major theme in a lecture delivered by Dr. Jawad Anani, president of the Royal Scientific Society, in the Housing Bank's Training Centre last Monday. The lecturer did not give definite answers to all the questions he offered, because he is not only an economist but a politician as well, and must be understood (or not understood) accordingly.

What we understood from Dr. Anani, however, is that he is of the opinion that the scale of interest rates in Jordan is extremely rigid to a harmful extent, and does not respond to the changing needs of the markets. Real interest rates, according to Dr. Anani, are to the high side in view of the zero inflation officially prevailing in the country for two consecutive years. They are too high in comparison with the marginal productivity and return of capital invested in Jordan, and they are definitely high relative to the going interest rates on special drawing rights (SDRs) to which the Jordan dinar is supposed to be pegged at least formally.

The lecturer therefore suggested that the interest rates should be scaled down by one percentage point across the board. Such a step will enhance confidence, help debtors and encourage investment. Lower interest rates, Dr. Anani assured us, will not cause capital flight, because the bulk of Jordanian capital abroad did not leave the country in search of higher interest rates. It could not, he repatriated simply by raising local interest rates above the levels prevailing abroad.

Unfortunately, the lecturer refused our notion to deregulate interest rates, and leave them to be determined by the active supply

and demand in the market. The reason he gave for this refusal was that he is uncertain of the outcome of such a step, and is fearful that interest rates may shoot up in an environment of free competition among banks which vary in their financial strength.

Dr. Anani did not deny that the rigidity of the scale of interest rates, which is fixed administratively to serve desired economic and social purposes, had actually failed. In fact such pricing proved to be detrimental to the very economic and social groups they were meant to serve. Certain categories of borrowers were able to get more than their fair share of bank facilities, at subsidised rates, at the expense of other groups which are pushed out to the parallel or black market to obtain financing, including Islamic financing which is costing between 18 to 20 per cent a year.

We think that the lecturer was eloquent in presenting all the arguments that could be offered to refute the policy of fixing prices irrespective of market forces, and to justify deregulation as a means to improve the allocation of resources, enhance the efficiency of the economy and remove distortions. However, he refrained from reaching this logical result of all these arguments, i.e., the deregulation, perhaps due to political considerations.

When the Central Bank fixed interest rates last time in December 1986 it left interest rates on deposits of JD 200,000 or more to be determined by competition. This step was seen at the time as testing the water for possible floating interest rates. After a year of this experiment, it is clear that banks are paying on such deposits higher interest rate than otherwise decreed by the Central Bank for smaller deposits. Many bankers and observers used the result of this experiment as evidence that deregulation of interest rates will

inevitably lead to higher interest rates.

Well, that may be true, but not because of this biased and unfair test. As a matter of fact, interest on large deposits was floated only in one direction — upwards. It is not conceivable for the owners of large deposits to accept lower rates than what is being payable on small deposits. They can only demand and get more. The one-sided experiment therefore does not prove anything.

Deregulation of interest rates has merits which are not disputable. The question is whether it has dangers that we have to watch and worry about. We claim that such dangers do not exist. Deregulation cannot have more than one of three results. Interest rates may substantially stay where they are now. In this unlikely event we shall become certain that administratively determined rates were reasonable and in line with the requirements of the markets but no harm can take place. The second result is that interest rates might decline. No-one is expressing fears from such an eventuality. The third result could be higher rates which would be justified since it would mean that there are qualified borrowers who are ready and able to put the funds into higher return and better use in order to be able to repay. In that case we are simply improving the utilisation of our savings to produce higher returns and higher growth.

The Central Bank is called upon to deregulate interest rates. We stand to gain a lot, and the only things we may lose are misallocation of funds, inefficiencies, distortions, capital flight, crisis of surpluses and shortages of liquidity, cheating and breaking the regulations.

Syria seen sticking to goal of strategic parity with Israel

By Jonathan Karp

RAMAT EFAL — Syria will adhere "steadfastly" to its goal of achieving strategic parity with Israel, despite the heavy burden this imposes on its economy, the head of Israeli army's intelligence said here yesterday.

Aluf Amnon Shahak credited Syrian President Hafez Al Assad with maintaining internal stability while pursuing his arms build-up, and predicted that Assad could continue to win public support as long as he provided Syrians with their basic needs.

"I think it will take Syria a very long time to achieve strategic balance with Israel," Shahak said. "But," he added, "the course seems to be feasible, and the people could bear the burden without causing unrest."

Based on this analysis, Shahak

warned that Israel must prepare to meet this strategic threat. That, too, would take time, he said in a lecture at a conference on Syria at Yad Tabenkin.

The other speakers at the conference were Professors Itamar Rabinovitz, Ya'akov Efron, Dan Shifman, Amnon Sella and Yossi Olmer. Shahak argued that even in its relative isolation from the Arab world, Syria would stay its course of rebuilding its military forces. An Arab consensus to confront Israel would allow Syria to change its policy and relieve it of some of

the burden, but the intelligence chief doubted such a development would occur in the near future.

Nevertheless, Israel was monitoring reconciliation efforts between Syria and Iraq. Shahak reported that Syria and Egypt were taking steps that could eventually lead to their reconciliation.

"I don't think this will lead to a major change of course in the near future, but if it occurs, it will be more significant than the rapprochement between Syria and Iraq," he said.

Shahak traced the development of Syria's concept of "strategic balance" from its inception following Camp David through the Lebanon war, after which the term took on connotations of building a viable political and economic entity rather than just a military power.

In military terms, Syria was pursuing three aims, Shahak said: strengthening its defensive capabilities by rebuilding its air force and air defences and by maintaining a presence in Lebanon; trying to develop a flexible army which could easily be shifted into an offensive posture; and developing a deterrence to Israel's "unconventional" weapons.

Hence, Syria's decision to develop chemical weapons. This was resolved by the highest political echelons, Shahak said in the decision.

— The Jerusalem Post.

Oil revenue heralds new hopes for N. Yemen

North Yemen has found oil and there is a likelihood that more may be discovered. As production starts for export, Michael Field discusses the potential and the effect it might have on the country.

In early December a new oil exporter was born. Oil started to flow from the Mareb basin in the interior of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen), across a 7,000 ft mountain plateau to a terminal at Salif on the Red Sea.

The volumes are not big enough to affect global oil prices, or the strength of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but they will be important for the economy of Yemen.

The start-up should have been on November 15, but work on the crude oil processing plant at the field is behind schedule.

When production starts properly, it will be at a rate of 125,000 barrels a day, increasing to 200,000 b/d next year. It will come from the Alef field, which Hunt Oil of Texas — now in partnership with Exxon and a group of Korean companies — discovered in mid-1984. The field has estimated reserves of 500 million barrels, which makes it by far the biggest discovery in the state.

Later, the government hopes it will be able to raise production to 400,000 b/d, on the basis of a possible further 500 million barrels in five smaller, more recent discoveries, and anticipated finds in the same area.

At the rate of 200,000 b/d, the state's revenues should be \$600 million to \$700 million a year. A further \$400 million will be spent

that they would have found it easier to import through local suppliers if the government had not so drastically restricted granting import licences to the private sector.

The company's awkward relations with the business community are matched by poor relations with the officials in the Ministry of Oil, with which Hunt has relatively little contact. The serious business between Yemen and the company is discussed by the President, Abi Abdullah Saleh and Mr. Ray Hunt, who have an excellent rapport.

The really big economic advantages for Yemen will come if more large oil fields are discovered. Apart from the Hunt consortium, there are now three concessions in Yemen.

Exxon has 20,000 sq km in the centre of the country. It has finished seismic work and, although the geological picture is unclear, it has decided to drill a well, starting in December.

Hunt, on its own, has an offshore concession. It has drilled one unsuccessful well, which caused its partner, Elf, to leave, and is planning another well.

Total has an offshore and onshore concession south of Hunt's acreage. Its seismic maps onshore are clear but discouraging, while the offshore picture is difficult to interpret.

The best prospects for further discoveries may not be in North Yemen at all, but to the east, in the Popular Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), where

— Financial Times feature.

Iran boosting influence in Lebanon

By Samia Nakhoul

Reuter

BEIRUT — Iran is using hard-pressed resources to spread its influence to the Mediterranean shores, pouring in money to establish a power base among Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim community.

The march of posters of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the Iranian-backed Hizbullah (Party of God) along south Beirut streets pinpoint where Tehran is gaining ground.

The hacking for Lebanon's Shi'ites, despite a draining seven-year-long war with Iraq, constitutes mainly Shi'ite Iran's biggest aid programme since the 1979 Islamic revolution, political experts say.

A Shi'ite official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tehran wanted a power base in Lebanon for its revolutionary message even if it should lose its foothold in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, base since 1982 for some 500 Revolutionary Guards.

This year Tehran started assisting thousands of Shi'ite families in Beirut, after previously only aiding Hizbullah, anti-Israeli guerrillas and relatives of "martyrs" killed in action.

The official told Reuters Iran was now spending about \$5 million a month for its aid projects in Lebanon.

He said Iran's hand was significantly strengthened in comparison with other foreign powers in Lebanon as it had built a network of institutions that, literally, brought home its involvement.

"Even if circumstances in Lebanon turned against their military presence, there is no force that can uproot the Iranian ideological beliefs here and infrastructure," he said.

The Tehran-based Martyrs Foundation and such organisa-

tions as the Islamic Health Committee, the Organisation of the Oppressed and the Imam Khomeini Office are filling a need for free medical, educational and social services for the Lebanese.

Lebanese government support disappeared in 12 years of civil war, while Israel's 1982 invasion drove thousands of Shi'ites from the south to Beirut's suburbs where packed apartment blocks line narrow streets.

Iran finances the year-old Al Hawra Maternity Hospital in the suburbs, as it does the Imam Khomeini Hospital in the east Lebanese town of Baalbek — a hotbed of pro-Iranian militants.

Some 40,000 schoolchildren have been awarded scholarships by Iran, which provides its donations through Hizbullah offices in eastern Lebanon and the poverty-stricken Beirut suburbs, an Iranian official said.

"Iran also offered partial assistance with fees for some 78,000 students, including 25,000 enrolled at universities, to ease the burden of the economic crisis in Lebanon," a Hizbullah official said.

"We felt we should help our sisters and brothers so they can keep up their resistance against Israel," he said. "It was our humanitarian and legitimate duty to relieve the people here."

Political observers said Iranian-style fundamentalism was flourishing among the country's estimated 1.3 million Shi'ites — the largest single religious sect in a population of some four million.

The Shi'ite community was at the bottom of the Lebanese social scale when Khomeini's revolution showed what his believers could do on their own to overturn the status quo.

"It is natural people here feel sympathetic to the Iranian revolution, especially after they received no help or response from any country other than Iran," Dastmalchian said.

He said Iran's "goodwill gesture" was welcomed because it at last provided what the Lebanese were longing for.

Children say they like their Iranian-supplied books and stationery decorated with pictures of Khomeini.

The suburbs, a 41-square-

(Lebanese) government institutions," agreed Hussein Mortada, a grocer in the southern suburbs.

"There are emotional and religious ties with Iran," he said.

"We have an allegiance to Iran...

We don't look at the Iranian aid as a bribe and neither do they."

Iran stepped up its intervention in Lebanon in 1983 in competition with Israel, the United States, France and

Muwaqqar, Tuba and Mushash — desert castles that were essential links along old caravan routes

Text and photos
by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

TEN KILOMETRES north-east of Mushatta, at the junction of several ancient desert tracks, is the modern village of Muwaqqar, alongside the Sahab-Azraq highway. It sits on a hilltop with a commanding view overlooking both the desert plateau to the east and the fertile hill country to the west — symbolic, as Geoffrey King has indicated, of the Umayyad desert castles' links to urban, agricultural village and desert communities throughout north and central Jordan.

Muwaqqar's vast stone reservoir — still in service and usually full of water — attests to its role in ancient times as an important stop along the caravan routes that criss-crossed the region. There was a substantial Umayyad settlement at Muwaqqar, which has completely disappeared except for a few architectural pieces preserved in museums or re-used in modern structures, particularly some fine carved capitals with inscriptions in Kufic script.

One column, which stood in the centre of a ten-metre-deep reservoir to mark the water level, indicates that Muwaqqar's palace was built by the Caliph Yazid II Ibn Ahd el-Malik (719-724 A.D.). There are also remains in the area of three dams, and some traces of building foundations, probably domestic houses.

Qasr Tuba

Qasr Tuba is the only desert castle that retains the original aura of a splendid, remote lodge reached after a long trek through the desert. It can only be reached with a four-wheel-drive, high-clearance vehicle and a guide who knows the way, for the castle lies in a now barren desert region 140 kilometres south-east of Amman, 70 kilometres east of the desert highway at Qatrarah.

After leaving the paved road east of Qatrarah, you have to drive another 35 kilometres on rough desert tracks to reach it — but the effort is well worth it, if you relish a taste of what it must have felt like in the 8th Century to come upon a stately estate after a long, dusty trek through the desert. Another demanding route that revives the Umayyad



Two sides of an inscribed capital found in a water reservoir at Muwaqqar in the 1940s. The inscription, in Kufic script, mentions that the reservoir was built under the order of Caliph Yazid, in 723 A.D. The capital originally stood at the top of the reservoir's

era experience of trekking between desert settlements is to approach Tuba on desert tracks from Qasr Kharana in the north, a 47-kilometre, 90-minute drive.

Near the sole existing entrance is a series of rooms with their original barrel vaults, showing clear architectural influences from Iraq and points east. Adjacent to these rooms are interconnected courtyards, passageways, open spaces, parts of walls and other rooms. Niches in the south wall may have been designed to serve as mihrabs of mosques.

Interspersed between 2-4 kilometres north of Qasr Tuba, alongside the dry riverbed, is the palace's ancient water supply system — three massive wells built of stone, with adjacent plastered pools and round structures designed for use by animals to lift



column-like water gauge, and is now at the Amman archaeological museum. (All photos of Muwaqqar courtesy of Jordanian Department of Antiquities, G. Lankester Harding Files.)

water.

Qasr Mushash

The extensive but quite ruined Umayyad desert complex of Qasr Mushash is about 19 kilometres north-east of Muwaqqar and 21 kilometres north-west of Kharana, and can be reached on a track heading north from the Sahab-Azraq highway. It has been studied by Dr. Geoffrey King and excavated by Dr. Ghazi Bishay of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

They identified the remains of 18 structures built of locally quarried stone. These include the main qasr, or residential building, measuring 26 metres square, with a central courtyard surrounded by 13 rooms, and a single entrance in the east wall, but lacking the evidence of the elaborate stucco and mosaic decorative

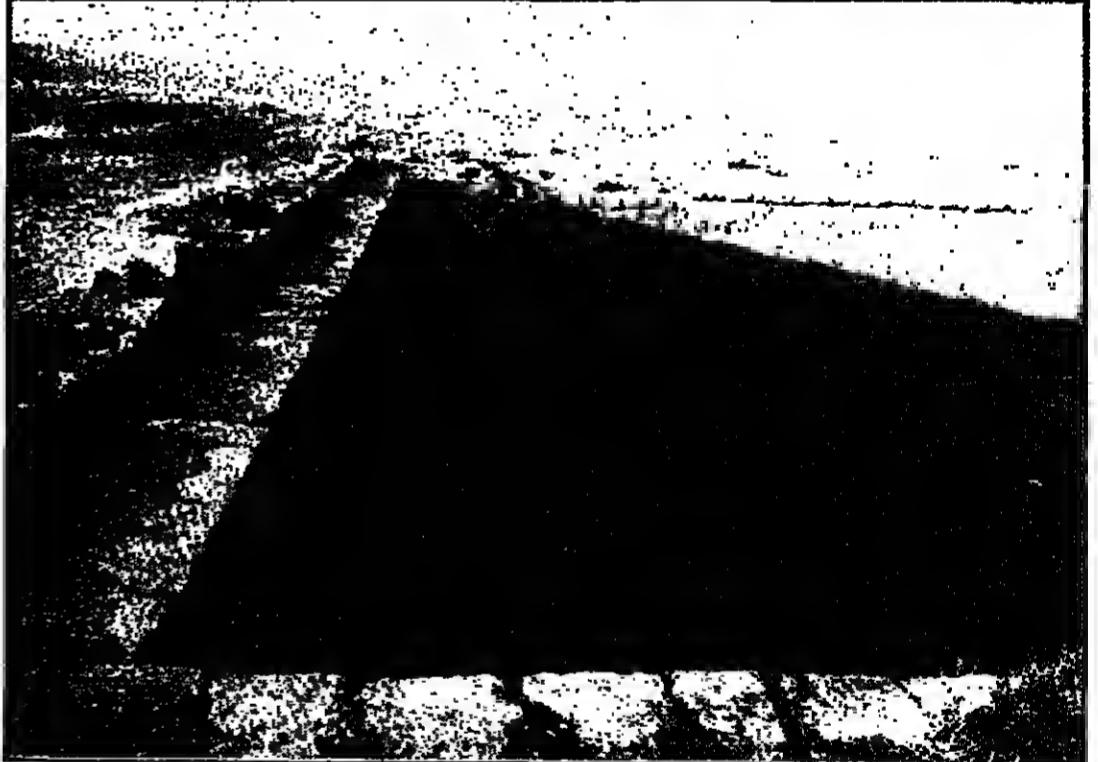
work so common at other Umayyad complexes; several long walls measuring a total of over 100 metres, which seem to have been barrages and deflecting walls to protect the settlement against flooding; at least three large stone-built and plastered water reservoirs (some of which were roofed); several smaller cisterns; a bath building with remains of its four rooms, which had plastered walls and marble floors; and their structures that were probably small dams or animal enclosures. The vast site, whose remains are scattered over an area of over two square kilometres, has mostly Umayyad pottery, with some Byzantine sherds. Eight kilometres to the north-east is Tell el-Raghi, with a small hill-top tower and Safaitic inscriptions indicating the area and the caravan route were both used in pre-Islamic times.



A photograph by G. Lankester Harding in 1943, showing the standing remains of the Umayyad palace at Muwaqqar, which have now totally disappeared.



A stone-built reservoir at Mushash, with stairs at the far end.



An underground cistern at Mushash, roofed with transverse arches and long slabs of stone.



General view of Qasr Mushash, looking east, with remains of the Qasr at left, overlooking the wadi.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sun. — Dec. 27, 1987
8:30 Charles in Charge

9:10 Divorce is Changing America
(One-part Documentary)

Americans have gradually come to accept the high rate of divorce. But they are just beginning to understand that divorce can cause more than emotional pain and anguish. In this special NBC White Paper, Jane Pauley examines some of the fundamental changes that divorce is creating in our society today.

Divorce is creating a separate class of impoverished women. In many cases, divorced women endure unusual economic hardship after the end of their marriage. For modern American divorce laws presuppose full equality for both sexes in all areas, including the workplace, despite the fact that for many women such equal earning potential does not yet exist.

Divorce is also creating a society where it is becoming socially acceptable for parents — particularly fathers not to support their offspring. Even in court-ordered cases of child support, one-quarter of the fathers involved never pay, while another 25% only pay in part. And there is no solution

apparent for the plight of the children who are not being properly cared for.

10:20 The Equalizer

Mon. — Dec. 28, 1987
8:30 Kate and Allie

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Hotel du Lac
(Play)

An English female author, who spent her leave alone in a hotel on an island in Switzerland, writes a description of the beautiful scenery. She sees and her daily experiences.

Tue. — Dec. 29, 1987

8:30 Farrington of the F.O.

9:10 Remington Steele
Santa Claus is Coming to Steele

10:20 Beggarmen Thief
(Last Part)

Wed. — Dec. 30, 1988

8:30 Valerie

9:10 Well Being
Name your Poison

Every culture has had its drugs;

the problem with ours is that we have too many and like to mix them. Though no-one seems to know why we become addicted to poisonous pleasures, everyone knows how hard it is to give them up. The programme finds out now different people have coped with tobacco and alcohol addiction, and looks at a new problem — tranquillizers.

10:20 Floodtide
The Catch
(Episode 5)

11:10 Hi De Hi
Peggy's Big Chance

Thu. — Dec. 31, 1987

8:30 Censored Bloopers

9:20 New Cycle Preview

10:20 Feature Film
Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

Starring:
Marilyn Monroe
Charles Coburn

Fri. — Jan. 1, 1988

8:30 Nothing is Easy

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Falcon Crest

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Algeria resumes gas sales to U.S.

ALGIERS (OPECNA) — Algeria resumed gas sales last week to the United States from its Arzew field, east of here. According to the Algerian news agency, a contract was signed recently between the Algerian state national oil company Sonatrach and the U.S. Cabot consortium. Algeria, the world's fourth largest gas producer after the Soviet Union, Holland and Canada, produced 40 billion cubic metres of gas last year, of which 25 billion cubic metres was exported. With natural gas reserves of three trillion cubic metres, most of Algerian production comes from Hassi R'mel, one of the world's largest gasfields.

GCC oil revenues rise to \$37.6 billion

MANAMA (OPECNA) — Oil revenues of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have increased by 6.7 per cent this year, compared with a year earlier. Quoting banking statistics in the region, the Manama-based Gulf News Agency said GCC oil revenues increased from \$35.30 billion in 1986 to over \$37.60 billion this year due to oil price stability. The revenues increased despite the fact that the average aggregate production by the six Gulf states reached 6.80 million barrels per day this year against 8.20 million barrels per day last year. The report added that oil revenues declined from \$59.30 billion in 1984 to \$50.70 billion in 1985 after the drop in oil prices.

Qatar reduces agricultural imports

DOHA (OPECNA) — Qatar's 1986 agricultural production reached a value of \$87.30 million, it was reported here. A report by the ministry of industry and agriculture said that the following proportion of the country's needs for agricultural products was grown locally: Cereals (6.3 per cent), fodder (11.8 per cent), dates (71.3 per cent) and vegetables (9.9 per cent). It also showed a drop in agricultural imports, thanks to an increase in local production. Qatar imported 95,936 tonnes of cereals last year against 105,449 tonnes in 1985, the report said, noting that cereals provided 21.4 per cent of the value of agricultural income in Qatar. Vegetables accounted for (23.3 per cent), meat (13.2 per cent), milk and dairy products (27.9 per cent), eggs (2.2 per cent), fish (4.9 per cent), and fruits and dates (6.6 per cent).

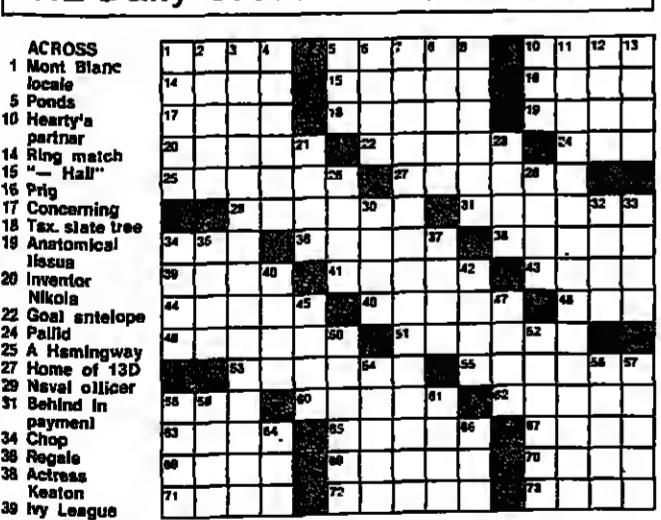
Indonesian tyre exports earn \$10.3m

JAKARTA (OPECNA) — The value of Indonesian tyre exports reached nearly \$10.3 million in 1986, an increase of about 30 per cent over 1985. A report released here by the Association of Indonesian Tyre Manufacturers said the biggest tyre exporter during the period was the Gajah Tunggal Company with exports of \$5.71 million. Indonesian tyres, it said, now had access to 36 countries including Malaysia, India, Australia, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and China. Production of four-wheel vehicle tyres in the last three years had shown a sharp increase particularly last year, when the figure was over 4.9 million tyres.

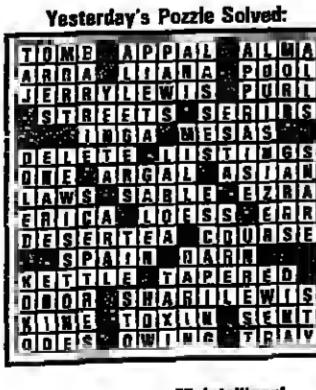
Inter-Continental named best hotel

NEW YORK (Agencies) — For the fourth consecutive year, Inter-Continental has been named the "best hotel chain" by readers of Britain's "Business Traveller" Magazine. New York-based Inter-Continental, which operates 100 hotels on six continents, is known for its outstanding services and facilities for international executives. "The fact that the Inter-Continental hotel chain has come out on top of its category for the fourth year in a row confirms that it is maintaining the standards set out in the first place," said Mr. Graham Boynton, editor of the magazine. Inter-Continental's 100 hotels are concentrated in major business and resort destinations in 48 countries around the world. An estimated 85% of the company's guests are travelling on business. To meet the needs of this key market, which it has served since 1946, Inter-Continental has developed special services and programmes in all its hotels, including 24-hour room service, same-day laundry and valet service and modern conference and banqueting facilities. Many Inter-Continental hotels provide fully-equipped business centres that serve as "office away from the office," business studios, guestrooms that convert into offices for small meetings, complimentary limousine transportation to and from the airport, airline check-in counters in the hotel lobby, and more. Inter-Continental also offers one of the industry's most generous and comprehensive frequent traveller programme. "Inter-Continental Rewards."

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzles Solved:



42. Golf scores, 43. Injection for, 44. Pub, 45. Ms. Falana, 46. Physician, 47. Helper, abbr., 48. Hospital area, 49. Novice: var., 50. Silkworm, 51. Microbe, 52. Indigo plant, 53. Pepper, 54. Peppermint, 55. Rendezvous, 56. Objective.

Horoscope not received

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (U.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 19, '87 and ending Wednesday, Dec. 23, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Bank	25047	54107	2.060	2.170	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1987	3722	1.900	1.870	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	11973	20095	1.680	1.660	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	3924	4990	1.280	1.270	1.000
Housing Bank	5047	8580	1.700	1.700	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1955	44391	22.100	21.750	5.000
Bank of Jordan	5971	99878	16.500	16.500	5.000
Arab Bank	1200	145647	121.500	122.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	10846	27675	2.350	2.350	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	2995	3295	1.100	1.100	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	8570	11179	1.800	1.810	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	95168	60349	0.680	0.650	1.000
National Financial Investments	2150	3571	1.640	1.680	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	4578	3325	0.730	0.720	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	1242	18791	15.000	15.400	2.000
Al Masbrak Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	17442	11.5514	6.310	6.700	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	225	3103	13.500	13.650	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1400	1364	1.000	0.980	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1000	1040	1.040	1.000	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	2800	1963	0.720	0.700	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	50	46	0.900	0.910	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	6450	8892	1.410	1.410	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	650	657	0.910	0.910	1.000
Universal Insurance	24350	2202	0.940	0.850	1.000
General Insurance	26386	58712	1.800	2.630	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Izhdhar Insurance	84	65	0.770	0.770	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	600	941	1.380	1.630	1.000
Inma for Investment and Financial Facilities	18154	131724	0.660	0.730	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	15811	6992	0.450	0.440	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	18356	9280	0.380	0.450	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	261	167	0.640	0.640	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	15127	1513	0.600	0.600	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajco	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	10941	16986	1.540	1.560	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	100	211	2.110	2.110	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	11000	3305	0.310	0.300	1.000
Jordan Dairy	4210	4411	1.040	1.070	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	14081	30336	2.190	2.130	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	94158	103107	1.100	1.050	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	16102	40254	2.500	2.500	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaf)	1151	1657	1.470	1.440	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	6950	36502	5.300	5.200	1.000
Aladdin Industries	187945	221863	1.150	1.140	1.000
Arab Aluminum Manufacturing	88952	164578	1.830	1.850	1.000
Jordan Worsted Mills	2286	10631	4.660	4.760	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	5066	5211	1.080	1.070	1.000
Chemical Industries	5051	6314	1.280	1.230	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	17400	11781	0.690	0.680	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	5413	8053	1.500	1.490	1.000
National Steel Industries	12000	33527	2.800	2.780	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	100843	139234	1.270	1.390	1.000
General Mining	100	150	1.550	1.500	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	9362	70319	7.550	7.500	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	64600	9601	0.160	0.150	1.000
National Industries	1420	710	0.510	0.500	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWTCO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	7436	9073	1.220	1.220	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	5117	16582	3.300	3.180	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	8375	5183	0.629	0.610	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	100	60	0.600	0.600	1.000
Jordan Hume Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Oriental Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	6450	4628	0.700	0.740	1.000
Jordan Tanning	245	502	2.150	2.050	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	50	730	14.600	14.600	5.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	1200	1104	0.920	0.920	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	55116	5370	0.970	0.960	1.000
Jordan					

Managua accuses contras of breaking Christmas truce

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua has accused U.S.-backed guerrillas of violating a Christmas ceasefire seven times but the contras insist they have held their fire.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement on Christmas Day that 10 contras and one government soldier had been killed and five government troops wounded in seven rebel attacks since the ceasefire began at midnight on Wednesday (0600 GMT on Thursday).

Rebel leaders based in other parts of Central America dismissed as propaganda claims by the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front that the contras had broken the truce. U.S. diplomats in the region did not report any violations.

"Our men have held their fire. It's just another example of anti-contra propaganda by the Sandinistas," contra spokeswoman Adela Icaza told Reuters by telephone from a Central American country she did not want named.

The Defence Ministry said government troops would abide by the ceasefire until it expired at midnight on Christmas Day (0600 GMT on Saturday) unless attacked.

Diplomats in the capital Managua said the incidents, if they had in fact occurred, could either have been the result of poor communications between contra field patrols and their leaders, or "just the actions of some rogue officers."

The 48-hour ceasefire had been suggested by the Roman Catholic Church, whose Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo is acting as mediator in peace talks between the two sides. It was the first ceasefire agreement between the government and the rebels in the six-year-war which has killed more than 40,000 Nicaraguans.

The Defence Ministry statement said the contras, organised and financed by the United States, first broke the ceasefire only 30 minutes into Christmas Eve with an attack on troops in Colonia San Jose, near Nueva Guinea.

Army Lieutenant Carlos Lara told reporters that government forces would abide by the ceasefire until midnight on Christmas

Day. "The order remains as before. Do not attack. Only defend if attacked," Lt. Lara said.

Diplomats in Central America said the severity of the incidents listed by Managua was hard to judge. Some said their overall impression was that the truce had been "largely a success, giving some hope for future peace moves."

A second round of peace talks, which stem from the peace accord signed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and four other Central American leaders last August, collapsed last Tuesday in the Dominican Republic when the contras objected to foreigners appointed to the government delegation.

Local media and a member of a cache cooperative reported three attacks Thursday in which two contras died.

State-run Radio Revolucion said contra and Sandinista troops battled near the strategic Rama Road, used for transport of supplies. The radio reported three dead contras and two wounded in the battles.

The opposition newspaper La Prensa said in its Thursday night edition that heavy fighting was reported in the northern province of Madriz.

Soviet ties with U.K. best since war — TASS

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet-British relations are better than they have been since the end of the World War II, the official Soviet News Agency TASS said on Saturday in a year-end communiqué.

The improvement was due partly to Britain's recognition of the role Western Europe had to play in nuclear disarmament, TASS said in the article by its London correspondent.

"This was underlined at the Soviet-British meeting at Brize-Norton, which marked the positive role that the British government played in reaching the Soviet-American treaty on liquidating medium and short-range nuclear rockets," TASS said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev stopped for two hours at Britain's Royal Air Force base at Brize-Norton on Dec. 7 to meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before continuing on his way to the superpower summit.

During her meeting with Mr. Gorbachev, Mrs. Thatcher praised the missile treaty he was to sign with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and urged East-West agreements on other categories of arms, including chemical, conventional and space weapons.

But she said Britain's small nuclear arsenal would not be reduced until the superpowers had made drastic cuts in their stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons.

The TASS article did not mention Britain's nuclear weapons.

TASS said Mr. Gorbachev's meetings with Mrs. Thatcher at Brize-Norton and in Moscow earlier this year had proved "especially fruitful" for relations between the two countries.

"After many years of stagnation in bilateral ties, a period of animated exchanges has come," the commentary said.

Only 133 bodies found in Philippine sea tragedy

MANILA (R) — A six-day search for bodies in history's worst peacetime sea disaster has yielded only 133 bodies, the Philippine Coast Guard said on Saturday.

Spokesman Lieutenant-Commander Rene Luspo corrected a previous count of 253 released by his office, saying "there had been a double counting, in some cases even triple counting" of the bodies.

About 2,000 people are believed to have died when the ferry Dona Paz and a small tanker collided and sank off central-Mindanao Island last Sunday. Only 26 are known to have survived.

Lt.-Col. Luspo said four navy ships and several commercial vessels continued a search that could last several more days.

A coast guard board opened a formal inquiry on Monday.

Owners of the Dona Paz, quoting what they said were survivors' accounts, have accused the tanker of ramming the luxury liner.

The Manila Chronicle newspaper on Saturday quoted Salvador Bacsal, a Dona Paz passenger who survived, as saying it was the liner that struck the tanker.

Gephhardt on Hart: Private life should be private

WASHINGTON (AP) — Representative Richard Gephhardt, asked about Gary Hart's re-entry into the Democratic presidential race, said in an interview broadcast Saturday he does not think presidential candidates ought to answer "every conceivable question any human being can concoct."

Mr. Hart abandoned his campaign in May amid reports about his relationship with a Miami model, and since re-entering the field earlier this month, has refused to answer questions about his private life.

"I don't think that a lot of your private life is terribly relevant to whether or not you would be a good president," the contender for the Democratic presidential nomination said in an interview with David Frost. "An awful lot of it is... an inquiry that people don't really want to know about or need to know about."

The interview with the Missouri congressman, which also was published in the Jan. 4 editions of U.S. News and World Report, touched on the issue of trade.

Mr. Gephhardt, who sponsored a trade amendment many feel is protectionist, was asked whether

the Japanese make better cars.

"In many ways they do," he said. "All the best-rated cars (in a consumer magazine) were Japanese. All the worst-rated cars were American. That's not a good sign."

Meanwhile Mr. Hart's request for about \$1 million in government campaign funds should be approved, a federal elections commission panel has recommended, according to reports published Friday.

The commission's audit division made the recommendation Thursday, according to the Denver Post and the New York Times.

The six-member commission has until Tuesday to approve, and campaign organisers expect it will receive up to \$1.2 million starting in January, the Post said.

The Times said the funds would be slightly less than \$1 million.

The matching funds are based on \$2.1 million the campaign collected before Mr. Hart withdrew from the race in May.

The commission has not ruled on whether the campaign could use any 1988 matching funds to pay creditors from Mr. Hart's 1984 presidential bid.

Christmas brings respite to world hotspots

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Peace reigned in Bethlehem on Christmas Day. Pope John Paul II blessed the faithful around the world and Queen Elizabeth II used her Christmas message to condemn terrorism.

Israeli army officials in the West Bank city of Bethlehem said Friday were no reports of violence following two weeks of Palestinian protests. The army had clamped heavy security on Christmas Eve festivities, deploying hundreds of soldiers, but most troops had been pulled out by Christmas morning.

Although their numbers were thinned by fears of violence and by blustery, wet weather, dozens of pilgrims crowded into the gold brocade-lined grotto of the Church of Nativity, singing hymns by candlelight and kneeling in prayer at the altar.

Only about 2,500 tourists — fewer than half of last year's turnout — attended midnight mass at the church's St. Catherine's Basilica.

At London's Buckingham Palace, the queen broke a royal tradition in her annual Christmas broadcast by focusing not on home and family but on the horrors of terrorism.

"It is only too easy for passionate loyalty to one's own country, race or religion, or even to one's favourite football club, to be corrupted into intolerance, bigotry and ultimately into violence," the 61-year-old monarch said.

Singapore's parliament passed a tough law in August 1986 giving the government power to restrict sales of foreign journals deemed to be interfering in local politics.

The ministry statement said from Dec. 29 the circulation of the FEER in Singapore would be limited to 500 copies weekly from about 10,000 copies.

The controversy between the Review and the Singapore government centres over a Dec. 17 article on Father Edgar D'Souza, a Roman Catholic priest who resigned the priesthood last week.

The government linked D'Souza, 39, to an alleged Marxist plot to overthrow it and accused him of having an affair with a woman. D'Souza left Singapore last June for Australia.

The statement said the article was based on a distorted account by D'Souza of a meeting on June 2 between Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Archbishop Gregory Yong. The meeting followed the arrest of 16 alleged Marxists including 10 church workers.

New Year's trees went on sale at street bazaars just a few days

ago, and Muscovites spent Friday lining up at crowded stores and poorly stocked liquor shops to prepare for their big holiday next week.

Thousands of Christians celebrated the holiday at the 10 Christian churches in Peking.

In New York, a 5-year-old boy playing with Christmas presents among family and friends was killed by a bullet fired through a window of his apartment, police said.

The shot, apparently fired from a housing project building across the street, passed through the metal window frame of the Bronx apartment Friday afternoon and went through the boy's head, police Lt. Stephen Davis said.

Jose Diaz died at a hospital about an hour later.

Jose was playing with new toys in the apartment living room when he was shot, Davis said.

Eric Donis, Jose's 6-year-old playmate, said the shot "sounded like a balloon."

"When I turned around I saw all the blood on the floor," he said. "I was crying. I just turned around from there and ran out of the door."

Neighbours said Jose's mother and four siblings were in the apartment while the boy's father was at work.

Detectives had not yet pinpointed the source of the apparently high-powered gunshot, Davis said.

The killing was the second shooting of a Bronx child this Christmas.

Police said it did not appear to be related to the shooting in the leg earlier in the day of an 11-year-old girl who was entering a store in the south Bronx.

The girl, whose name was not released, was admitted to a hospital for treatment of a wound in the left calf, police Sgt. Maurice Howard said.

In Spokane, Washington, a priest suffered a fatal heart attack in front of 400 people while delivering his Christmas mass sermon, the church pastor said.

The Rev. Frank Harrington, 78, was taken from St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church at Gonzaga University to Sacred Heart Medical Centre, where he died of cardiac arrest, a nursing supervisor said.

"Father Harrington was at the end of his homily, and he simply passed out at his pulpit," said the pastor, the Rev. Thomas Royce, who was standing with the choir at the time. "A deacon and several parishioners rushed to help

him.

"They stretched him out on the sanctuary floor and began CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), but it was too late."

Royce said many began crying while others watched in stunned silence. One woman began saying a rosary for the fallen priest, and others soon joined in prayer, he said.

Royce said that the mass continued. He said he took consolation in the timing of his colleague's death.

"It was a wonderful time for him to go," the pastor said. "He was talking during his homily about how the birth of Jesus Christ had blessed our lives, and he talked about the peace and joy that God delivers to us which allows us to go home."

"That's when (Rev. Harrington) went home — home to the father."

A Colombian village priest was stabbed to death in his church by two drunken parishioners after saying Christmas midnight mass. Colombian police said.

The priest, Alfonso Urbano Garces, 54, was found dead in a pool of blood in the sacristy by parishioners who had come for the morning mass in Totoro, Cauca province, 200 kilometres west of Bogota.

According to preliminary reports the drunken men, who have been detained, had a row with the priest the previous evening.

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The girl, whose name was not released, was admitted to a hospital for treatment of a wound in the left calf, police Sgt. Maurice Howard said.

In Beirut, kidnappers believed holding 24 foreigners in Lebanon kept silent despite a chorus of Christmas pleads for the release of the captives.

The appeals went out from the wives of American and French hostages, British Ambassador John Gray and the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose special envoy Terry Waite has been held since last January.

Christmas always brings a srooge.

This year the label was attached in Tokyo to currency speculators who drove the dollar to its lowest level since World War II.

COLUMNS 7&8

Crowds stop police arresting tree climber

STAFFORD, England (AP) — Seasonal goodwill temporarily broke down as Christmas Eve shoppers and bystanders scuffled with police and stopped them arresting a man who climbed 50 feet (15 metres) up Stafford's Christmas tree. To the delight of crowds full of festive spirit, the man defied orders by the guardians of law and order to come down from his lofty perch for more than an hour. Stafford police said in a statement that when he did finally come down from his own free will, members of the crowd who had gathered to watch the spectacle scuffled with officers who tried to arrest him and he got away. Nobody was hurt in the scuffles, but police said they arrested several people for attacking the officers.

Prisoners celebrate Christmas with riots

SYDNEY (R) — Alcohol-fuelled riots in two of Australia's largest jails injured several warders on Christmas Day, officials said. Four officers were hurt, two seriously, in Sydney's Long Bay Jail when around 100 prisoners went on a two-hour rampage after drinking home-brewed alcohol. Tear gas was used to quell the riot after convicts broke open a store at the activities centre and seized gym weights to attack officers. In Brisbane Prison, six prisoners assaulted three prison officers after drinking home-brewed concocted from fruit and yeast. One warden was rushed to hospital with severe facial injuries. Prison Officers Association President Pat Armstrong attacked government failure to protect officers in a year when over 150 have been beaten up by inmates. "The trauma and effects of these hashings stay with them forever," he said. "It should be law that prisoners be given a mandatory life sentence for assaulting a prison officer."

Strip-search reveals suspect is woman

WEST HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Florida authorities made a startling discovery when they strip-searched a suspect accused of killing three Connecticut banks out of more than \$80,000 before disappearing last summer. He is a she. The suspect, known as Richard Wong or Chung Yin Wong, looks like a man, talks like a man, identifies herself as a man on legal documents and has a wife, local police and Florida officials say.

"He was always dressed in a suit, wore glasses, polite, a real gentleman," said West Hartford Police Lt. Anthony Duffy, who prepared an affidavit for Wong's arrest. Wong was arrested on Dec. 18 at the offices of Trans-Atlantic Marketing in Coral Springs, Florida. She will be returned to Connecticut soon, Hartford state's attorney John M. Bailey said. "The person we have is the person you know as Richard Wong," said Coral Springs police detective Robert Vernon. "This is a woman playing a man." Vernon said that he was suspicious about Wong's gender, but Wong insisted she was a man. Only after Wong was taken to the county detention centre did the detective learn otherwise. A caller from the Sheriff's Department said, "I'm going to send you back to anatomy class," Vernon said.

Fat lottery showers millions on Spain

MADRID (R) — Spain ground to a halt as its Christmas lottery, the world's biggest, showered \$745 million among winners throughout the country, including a bishop. Radio stations suspended news bulletins and millions of mesmerised television viewers watched as orphans spun giant drums for several hours to select hundreds of winning numbers. This year's lottery was the richest ever, but there was no big winner. The main prize, "El Gordo" (the fat one), was shared among hundreds, including the Bishop of Majorca who won \$72,000. El Gordo, worth \$2.2 million, went mostly to the Mediterranean City of Alicante, Leopoldo Soria and Bernardo Carretero, a young couple due to get married next year, won half a million dollars. Children of the San Ildefonso Orphanage ritually sang the numbers and the prizes in the draw at the headquarters of the national lottery. Pandemonium broke out when 13-year-old Gemma Llorente, blinded by camera flashes and overcome by stage fright, misread the amount corresponding to number 20,064, El Gordo. She was made to sing again: "250 millones de pesetas" (\$2.2 million). Spain's 32 million people for the first time spent more than 100 billion pesetas (\$909 million), a staggering \$25 per head, on Christmas lottery tickets. One rare exception was Finance Minister Carlos Solchaga. "I have never bought a lottery ticket," he said. But he was the single biggest winner as his ministry creamed off nearly a third of the takings.

Brides offered on trial basis

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — Officials are investigating marriage brokers in Bavaria who offer Thai brides who can be returned or exchanged, police said Tuesday. The Bavarian State Prosecutor's Office searched the offices of 10 Munich-area marriage brokers in December, a police statement said. Three Thai women were arrested on charges of illegally entering West Germany, the statement said. Police said the searches also turned up files and addresses which could result in charges against the marriage brokers for violating immigration laws. According to the statement, the women, mostly from poor families, are recruited by a married Thai couple who promise them work and a husband in West Germany. In Munich, they offered to prospective spouses at prices up to 10,000 marks (\$6,060), the statement said. The brokers guarantee their customers can exchange the women if they are not satisfied, the statement said. The statement described one case in which a 27-year-old pregnant Thai woman was given to a 39-year-old West German after she had already been offered to three other men aged 27, 26 and 25.